

Message Text

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52

ACTION L-03

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P 261500 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7466

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1220

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, SZ, US

SUBJ: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY : BRIEFING MATERIAL ON
PROBLEM OF ORGANIZED CRIME

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AND POSSIBLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO ATTEMPT EXTENSIVE PRESS OR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, CONTINUING WIDESPREAD MISUNDERSTANDING BOTH WITHIN SWISS GOVERNMENT AND INFLUENTIAL PRIVATE GROUPS OF PROBLEM OF ORGANIZED CRIME. WE BELIEVE CAUSE OF TREATY COULD BE ADVANCED THROUGH EMBASSY EFFORTS VIS- A- VIS CAREFULLY SELECTED, HIGH- LEVEL PERSONALITIES TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM OF ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITES AND USEFULNESS OF JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY IN HELPING TO CONTROL INTERNATIONAL CRIME.

2. RECOGNIZING THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES CANNOT, FOR VARIETY OF INVESTIGATIVE AND OTHER REASONS, PROVIDE SPECIFICS OF PENDING CASES, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUPS AND THEIR USES OF FOREIGN SECRECY PROVISIONS TO DISCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE SUTIABLE FOR USE IN US COURTS. ILLUSTRATIVE CASES, PERHAPS BASED ON COURT RECORDS OF CASES IN WHICH CONVICTIONS HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN, WOULD ALSO BE EXTREMELY USEFUL.

3. NEED MATERIAL BY APRIL 10 IF IT IS TO BE OF MAXIMUM USE.

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DAVIS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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